

~~TOP SECRET COPSE~~

M45

New York-Moscow
1944
No. 824 (7 June)

To Victor [VIKTOR].

Your no. 3310:

1. I conversed with Chemist ^{Kn}[KHEMIST] about the DESIATKA²; according to] his account the DESIATKA is conscientious with the exception of Ruby [RUBIN]. Relative to the drinking bout we are sending a résumé by Chemist. There have been no other cases [or: incidents]. I shall get together before long [with] R. and IRA separately?.....from them? details. I shall telegraph the results.

According to Chemist's account right now Antonius [ANTONI] and Gregory [GRIGORIY] are living together with girl students they made the acquaintance of on the steamer. Chemist begs me to raise the question again of his wife's coming inasmuch as the DESIATKA is supposed to stay here at least a year more. For the time being the DESIATKA is asking permission to send telegrams and parcels to [their] families by designated^b addressees, in order that your people may intercept them and deliver them to the addressees. Telegraph.

2. By post I am sending a memorandum^m [or: report] [in] which I shall adopt the following conventions^c:

B. the Plant [ZAVOD]^d,

ZH. decipherment [RASHIFROVKA][,]

YU. editorial staff [or: office] [REDAKTSIYA],

D. the Factory [FABRIKA]^e,

CH. the Neighbor [SOSED]^f,

SH. cover [PRIKRYTIYE],

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- T. sound-recording apparatus [ZVUKOZAPIS^UIVAYUCHCHAYA APPARATURA],
- R. eavesdropping [PODGLUSHIVANIYE],
- N. personnel? of the Office [SOSTAV^U KONTOR^U]^S,
- P. the Syndicate [SINDIKAT]^h,
- H. courier guard [? courier-guard or courier's guard?; KURYER(A?) OHRANA],
- M. surveillance [NABLYUDENIYE],
- F. the Office [KONTORA]ⁱ,
- E. conspiracy [or: conspirativeness; KONSPIRATSIYA],
- L. cipher clerk [SHIFROVAL'SHIK],
- G. worker [RABOTNIK]^j.

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May [MAY]

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^aPreviously rendered: the Ten. This translation, while justifiable (see below), is misleading, for it tends to suggest that the DESIATKA was necessarily composed of just ten people. Actually, its quantitative reference may be no stronger than that of, say, "the Four of Clubs" or "Eight Ball." A translation of the definition of DESIATKA in the Tolkovyy Slovar⁷ follows; English words for the various meanings are added in brackets:

DESIATKA, 1. f. 1. The figure 10 (coll.) [a ten]. || The designation of various objects numbered with this figure (coll.), e.g. billiard ball no. 10 [the ten (ball)], tramcar, autobus no. 10 [number 10]. || A school mark denoted by this figure (school obs.) [a ten]. 2. A playing card having ten pips [the ten, a ten, a/the ten-spot]. 3. A ten-ruble note or coin (coll.) [like our tennar, ten-spot]. 4. A launch with ten sails (neut.).

However, speaking in favor of the quantitative interpretation is the use of TROTKA. Its meanings parallel those of DESIATKA; it can mean

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"three horses harnessed abreast to one vehicle"; and it^{is} famous in the history of the All-Union Communist Party (Bolshevik) for its application to various triumvirates formed by Lenin and Stalin.

^bPossibly ~~AKKUNTYE~~ ~~ADRESA~~ = questionnaire address or interrogation-form address (meaning?).

^cNote that the terms to be coded can all be referred to Soviet personnel and control of their actions (by surveillance, microphones, etc.). The use of the post and of a special code suggests that the contents might concern in part the cipher clerk(s) and others handling correspondence between New York and Moscow.

^d~~The~~ Soviet Consulate (in New York).

^eThe Amtorg Trading Corporation.

^fRed Army intelligence service.

^gof the State Security apparatus in the Consulate.

^hThe People's Commissariat of Foreign Affairs [~~NARODNYY KOMISSARIAT~~ ~~INOSTRANNYYH DEL~~ = ~~NARKOMINDEL~~ = NKID].

ⁱThe State Security apparatus in the Consulate.

^jThat is, operative.

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